



Canton City Schools

HARTFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Amanda Gillespie
1132 13th ST NW
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February 14, 2012

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to serve as a reference for Chad A. Ostrowski. As part of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship program, sponsored by University of Akron, I had the opportunity to interview several U. of Akron fellows in the summer of 2011, for the purpose of selecting one fellow to fulfill his or her clinical field experience hours in my classroom for the school year. Of all the available candidates, I chose Mr. Ostrowski.

The purpose of Woodrow Wilson Fellowship program was to afford fellows the opportunity to learn how to apply methodologies while being immersed within an actual school environment for the entire duration of a school year. Chad assumed all the roles and responsibilities of a regular teacher while at Hartford Middle School. He was required to maintain the same work hours as regular teachers. Chad was also assigned duties and responsibilities as if he were certified staff. He began the 2011-2012 school year by co-teaching with me in my 7th grade science classroom. By the start of second semester, Chad assumed all responsibilities of classroom management.

Let me just say, working with Chad has been amazing, and I am sure it is not often that a cooperating teacher can say that about a student teacher. In the year that I have spent working with Chad, he has exhibited all the qualities and characteristics one would expect to see from an effective urban educator. Chad is passionate about teaching, and brings a real world expertise of the subject matter to the classroom. He is eager to master his teaching methodology, he will seek out feedback on his techniques and lessons, and he will often self-reflect and self-correct when conducting lessons. He is very receptive to constructive criticism and welcomes the challenge of mastering the art of teaching urban students.

At Hartford Middle School our mission is teaching our students to read, write, speak and most importantly think! Where A is for Attitude, B for Beliefs, C is for Confidence and D is for Dedication, Discipline, and Determination ~ all are necessary for our success. Knowledge is power ~ continue to read, read, read....

As I am an advocate of 21st century education, I was very pleased to find that Chad is also technology literate. Throughout the school year, Chad had many opportunities to hone his skills in technology integration, while keeping in mind the intricate balances of technological, pedagogical, and content knowledge (TPACK). Chad had an entire year's worth of practice implementing Smart board software, iPod touches, netbooks, Flip cameras, microphone recording devices, and several software programs into his lessons.

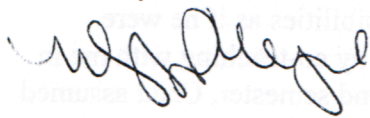
Chad was able to maintain focus on 21st century learning skills by concentrating his efforts on developing problem-based units that required students to conduct research, report findings using digital medium, work cooperatively, organize materials, and meet deadlines.

Most importantly, I was very pleased to see that Chad was able to build relationships with our students and maintain high expectations. At Hartford, we have a motto which states, "Student's won't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Chad was able to come in, having no prior experience with classroom management or urban middle school students, and build lasting, meaningful relationships with our students. Because of this one fact, I have no doubt that no matter where Chad begins his career in education, he will be successful.

Even though Chad demonstrates outstanding skills in 21st century education and TPACK, it is for his caring, compassion, and commitment to our students that I highly recommend Chad Ostrowski for any teaching position for which he applies.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need clarification of Chad's qualifications and experiences. I can be reached at gillespie_a@ccsdistrict.org or (330)-232-3301.

Sincerely,



Amanda L. S. Gillespie
Teacher, science and technology